

Please add the following paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 2,

line 10:

"DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION"

The Patent Office also objects to the use of the term "dagaie" at page 5, line 7 of the Applicants' specification as unclear as it pertains to the implementation of the invention. The Applicants explain that the term "dagaie" corresponds to a word classically used by those skilled in the art to designate a particular tactic or type of aerial decoy dispersion.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Patent Office objects to claims 6-14 under 37 CFR §1.75(c) as being improper in form because of multiple dependencies from multiple dependent claim 5. In response, the Applicants amend claims 6-14 and assert that those claims are now in compliance with 37 CFR §1.75(c).

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 4.

Please amend the claims as follows:

3/ (Amended) A device according to claim 2, characterized in that a thickness of the covering is calibrated so that when said device is immersed, the effervescent material begins to react with sea water only after said device has been sinking for a predetermined length of time.

5/ (Amended) A device according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the covering is made of a material which is hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose or a derivative thereof, a gum of vegetable or animal origin, a polyvinyl alcohol, a poly (N-vinylpyrrolidone), a poly (ethylene oxide), or a mixture thereof.

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6/ (Amended) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the effervescent material comprises a mixture of tartaric acid and of sodium hydrogen carbonate.

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7/ (Amended) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the effervescent material comprises a mixture of citric acid and of sodium hydrogen carbonate.

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8/ (Amended) A device according to claim 7, characterized in that the mixture is substantially stoichiometric.

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9/ (Amended) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the effervescent material includes a lubricant.

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10/ (Amended) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the effervescent material has grains in a size range of less than 100 µm.

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11/ (Amended) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the effervescent material is such that the bubbles generated thereby at a depth of 10 meters are of dimensions lying in the range 30 µm to 50 µm.

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12/ (Amended) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that it further includes ballast-forming means, for the purpose of enabling it to sink faster.

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13/ (Amended) A torpedo decoying method, characterized in that devices according to claim 1 are dispersed in the sea from the air.

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15/ (New) A decoy device for wake-following torpedoes, the device comprising a body of effervescent material that reacts with sea water to generate a cloud of bubbles simulating a phony wake, the device being characterized in that it has a covering made of an organic material that is soluble in sea water which delays the reaction of the effervescent material with sea water; and